



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRMP) – Final plan available** – The plan includes four separate functional areas to address the water resources of the 9-county region: (1) Water Supply & Water Quality, (2) Wastewater & Recycled Water, (3) Flood Protection & Stormwater Management, and (4) Watershed Management-Habitat Protection & Restoration. The Flood Protection & Stormwater Management functional document describes the regulatory focus on detaining or retaining runoff so as not to increase runoff flows but notes the difficulty in meeting these requirements: “Most developable areas in the Bay Area are on low-permeability clay soils and/or have high groundwater, so infiltration to groundwater is generally not an option. Designs and design procedures for retention facilities have not been implemented and tested in a semi-arid climate, and many existing designs are generally not *applicable* for the smaller (<20 acres) sites typical of much of current Bay Area developments.” The document also discusses the funding limitations which limit the ability of storm water management agencies to meet water quality requirements. <http://www.bayaireairwmp.net/>

**Citizen Monitoring – Increasing activities** – The State Water Resources Control Board, other agencies, and watershed organizations sponsor these volunteer monitoring programs throughout the state. In some cases they produce water quality data not otherwise available, especially stream water quality during wet weather. More information is available in the program’s newsletter: *Currents* - <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/docs/newsletter/currents2006summer.pdf>  
Program information: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/volunteer.html> Monterey Bay volunteer monitoring reports: <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/monitoringnetwork/events.html#reports>

**Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy – Presentation** – As discussed in *NewsFlash 06-15*, the San Francisco Bay and North Coast Boards are developing Basin Plan amendments to provide protections for stream and wetlands systems. The policy will affect all water sources including storm water. The two boards will propose a single policy which is also intended to be a model for other Regional Boards. North Coast staff has produced a useful presentation for upcoming scoping meetings which summarizes the effort. [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/060525swspp/061120\\_SWSP\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/060525swspp/061120_SWSP_Presentation.pdf)

**Puget Sound – Storm water partnership criticized** – Other parts of the country are also struggling to find appropriate approaches for controlling storm water runoff. The Puget Sound Partnership was established by the Governor with the goal of returning the Sound to environmental health by 2020. Its co-chairman is Bill Ruckelshaus, former Administrator of U.S. EPA, and its members include state agency directors, politicians, and representatives of various interest groups. Now, an outside group of storm water experts has challenged the Partnership’s restoration strategies and is urging increased use of low-impact development techniques, prohibiting runoff from new impervious areas, and limits on development. The critics state that end-of-pipe detention and treatment has been discredited by recent research. Partnership: <http://www.pugetsoundpartnership.org/> Critics: [goto.seattlepi.com/r412](http://goto.seattlepi.com/r412)

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>